

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 057368
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 OPR-02 CCO-00
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DRAFTED BY S/S:F.WISNER:MEM
APPROVED BY S/S:F.WISNER
WH:WISE (SUBST)
NSC:GATES

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O 062328Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 057368

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S TRIP

REF: LAGOS 2816
STATE 055126

1. WITH RESPECT TO PARAGRAPH NINE OF STATE 055126, YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO THE NIGERIANS THAT WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT KADAWA IS POSSIBLE. WE EXPECT THE NIGERIANS TO UNDERSTAND AND TO ACCEPT OUR VIEWS IN THIS MATTER. MOREOVER, WE CONTINUE TO BE SURPRISED BY THE FACT THAT OBASANJO MAY NOT ACCOMPANY THE PRESIDENT TO KANO. OBASANJO HAS TRAVELED OUTSIDE LAGOS WITH OTHER CHIEFS OF STATE, INCLUDING NYERERE. AS WE POINTED OUT IN REFTTEL, WE ARE ONLY VISITING KANO BECAUSE THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT INSISTED THAT WE DO SO. IF OBASANJO DOES NOT PLAN TO ATTEND, THE TRIP TO KANO VISIT WILL BE IN QUESTION. WHEN YOU RAISE THE MATTER WITH THE NIGERIANS, WE BELIEVE
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THAT THEY WILL FIND OBASANJO'S INTEREST WELL SERVED BY THE ADDITIONAL TIME FOR BILATERAL TALKS WHICH THE TRIP TO KANO WILL PROVIDE.

2. DEDICATION OF NEW EMBASSY. BASED ON THE SCHEDULE WHICH THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT PROPOSED, WE DO NOT SEE HOW THERE WILL BE SUFFICIENT TIME IN LAGOS TO PERMIT

THE PRESIDENT TO DEDICATE THE NEW EMBASSY. THE PRE-ADVANCE TEAM WILL REVIEW THE SUBJECT WITH YOU BUT YOU SHOULD NOT PROCEED WITH ANY PLANNING AT THIS POINT.

3. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE APPROVED THE USE OF NITA, YOU SHOULD NOT DO ANYTHING MORE THAN PREPARE THE GUEST LIST. NO INVITATIONS SHOULD BE ISSUED. THE PRE-ADVANCE TEAM MAY WISH TO LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF A SMALLER AUDIENCE.
VANCE

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NNN

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